The basis of a good Luther League program is the study of the Word of God . . .

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Youth Issue

Lutheran Herald

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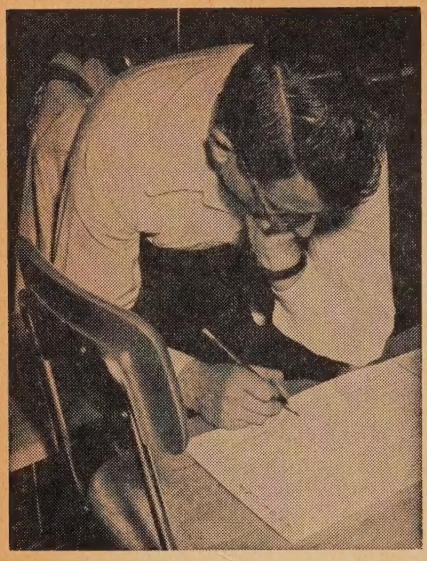

Lutheran You

More than 4,000 youth a adults answered 480 que tions for the survey.

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Lutheran Herald

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QUESTIONNAIRES, SURVEYS, and research are today's an guesswork. Some 2,000 Lutheran young people between t of 15 and 18 from 192 congregations and 2,000 adults f same congregations got caught up in the IBM card-markin from September of 1958 to February of 1959. Not that i game, of course. The questioners, Lutheran Youth Researc operative project sponsored by six Lutheran groups, we serious business.

They asked 480 questions of the 4,000 youth and adults. E they were really after was the answer to one basic questi can the church's youth program be more effective? The given to the 480 questions will help the church give a bette to its one question.

Ever since last February the answers to the 480 questi been tabulated and analyzed. Fifty thousand cards ha through the IBM machines up to a hundred times.

Not everybody is happy with questionnaires, particula who are on the answering end. There are a number of re this. In the first place, there are so many questionnaire around these days that they get to be just plain bothers back in the mind of the one being questioned often question, "What business is it of yours?" Can we really be the results compiled from the answers received are acc adequate? Then, too, there is the possibility that the answ disconcerting.

A person always takes a chance when he asks a questi may get an answer that he doesn't want. "Tell me, do serious? Do I have an infection? Is it cancer?" To all of t tions a patient would like to have a "no" answer; and he doesn't ask the question for fear that he may get a "ye But what if the answer really is yes?

search

by Wilfred Bockelman

t was a chance the 192 churches had to take they granted Lutheran Youth Research permis- come in and question a sampling of their youth dults. What if the answers revealed that the program was weak? Obviously churches would to know this and would be grateful for the in- tion.

churches are made up of human beings who human emotions. While they might readily to having weaknesses here and there, what happen if the survey revealed that they had ompletely flunked out in their youth program. vas a chance that had to be taken.

odical youth directors, being equally human, take the same chance. They had been respon- for the development of the youth programs of rticipating churches. What if the survey would that all these years they had been kidding elves, that what they thought was a good youth m wasn't a good one at all? That it was less erfect they all agreed. But how much less than t? How bitter a pill might have to be taken he results were known?

all the results are known as yet, but enough are that the youth programs of the churches can aluated with a high degree of accuracy, and l suggestions can be given that should help to then the programs.

questions are in order: Are the answers re- Was the sampling of persons chosen to answer estions representative enough to give a reliable e of the whole?

one expects a 100 per cent yes answer to either on. In fact, there might be some superficial argu- that the answer is more no than yes. After all, 5-year-old is asked to state the degree to which hing bothers him by checking one of the follow- ever bothers, no longer bothers, bothers very bothers quite a bit, bothers somewhat, bothers ittle—just how much reliability can you attach answer?

n, too, it is commonly accepted that young peo- dults too, for that matter—give the answers that think they are expected to give instead of the hey would really like to give if they felt com- y open in giving their answers.

The test, however, was so carefully and scientifically devised that it contained a number of "lie" questions. Hence, if a person answered one question in a way that he felt it should be answered but in a way that was not really his own answer, this could easily be detected by answers given to several other innocent-appearing questions "hidden" throughout the test.

To the question, "Was the sampling of persons chosen to answer the questions representative enough to give a reliable picture of the whole?" the superficial answer could understandably be no. After all, scarcely four per cent of the slightly more than 5,000 congregations in the participating churches were reached.

These churches, however, were carefully and scientifically chosen so that they would reflect a cross section of the whole church. The congregations were divided according to size, and geographical area of the country; and the number of churches chosen randomly from each group was in the proportion that that group was a proportion of the whole.

The entire survey project was conducted under the guidance of technical experts in the field of sociological research and surveys. Survey specialists in other fields who studied Lutheran Youth Research described it as one of the most accurate and dependable surveys they had ever seen. Conclusions were based on evidence which could be demonstrated as being factual ninety-nine times out of a hundred.

It should be added that Lutheran Youth Research is an intersynodical activity sponsored by the youth departments of the following synods: American Lutheran Church, Augustana Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Lutheran Free Church, and United Evangelical Lutheran Church. The material reported here is based on a survey conducted in four of the synods (ALC, ELC, LFC, and UELC) under the direction and help of Merton Strommen (LFC), George Utech (ALC), and Gordon Smedsrud (ELC).

Naturally, a survey alone will accomplish nothing unless its findings are acted on. Lutheran Youth Research herewith presents its findings. The rest is up to the churches.

© Lutheran Youth Research

International work camps, like this one in Norway, have been a part of the ELC youth program.

Where We Have Been...

by Carroll E

YOUTH WORK in the church has always been the training ground of its future leadership. Today, youth lead youth on local and circuit levels and are themselves trained for this purpose at special leadership schools.

It is much more expensive to train youth than to speak to them. Dr. L. W. Boe, when president of St. Olaf College, used to say, "I could do it a lot better myself, but you students would learn nothing from my mistakes like you do from making your own." The challenge of their tasks throws them upon the promises of God and the reality of prayer for His Holy Spirit. A fresh enthusiasm enters all phases of church work as youth work becomes a training ground in churchmanship.

This has been happening superbly in Youth Education in Stewardship. In this area our youth give such a high percentage of their income that even when averaged in with youth who never attend League or church but are still on the rolls, and with Leagues which have no stewardship program, the entire youth of our church give at least 6% of their total resources. Many indeed seem to give even when they are not getting. They have learned a habit of stewardship.

The youth training aspect of the Luther League has grown in all their congregational participation. Worship, witness, work, are all seen in God's will for their generation. The past has not the same brake on them, and the future is anticipated in all the expansiveness of God's limitless promises. With vigor and the will to learn and to give, youth have entered into full participation in congregational life.

We have suffered in youth work from conscience of a slovenly student. Before sp schools were content to keep the teen-ager petitive labor market, and hopefully, also off The teen-ager was a parasite on the tax pay one can live with that kind of guilt and n trouble. Never having known mental fat youth were the spoil of Satan; boredom wa world they knew. When they were enlist church youth movement, they often em their faith, were unstable, and drifted t gospel song formalism of a sluggish mind schools are again training scholars; it is more to be a scholar than a salesman for the he society. The student is not a square, but t his society. And Christian youth also are af

A new kind of youth movement will mee of these youth when they are confirmed into our Leagues. Accelerated math, pre-coll living language courses and the like will ready for something to sink their teeth into join League.

The day of "vocatio" is dawning—what love God with all my heart, soul, strength as one called to be a man, a woman, a lov a husband, a father, a son, a worker, a Christ. The whole of life is His in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowle the commitment at a Bible camp or confir comes the understanding that all of life be Risen One who is Lord.

drama of gigantic rallies, the winsome atmos- of Bible camp retreats, the impact of constant ne on daily Bible reading and prayer, the in- n and quiet encouragement of their peers in fellowship will continue to be a part of the movement as they have been a part of it in the ut the intellectual has been increasing its grip r motivation, as it is not a "shot in the arm" e been giving, but the strong teaching arm of through His Church's youth movement.

Our theology of youth work

major concern of Luther League has been theo- orientation. We build on two years of confirma- struction which has not only established warm with the pastor, but also the knowledge of life r in the Holy Spirit as youth learn to live ng to Scripture.

er Leagues are fundamentally Bible fellowships. ls and programs from headquarters help such ellowships to form about the living Christ as Brother as well as Lord and Savior. Bible camps up spontaneously to implement this concern, from tents on the prairie or by a lake, until ur synod owns 39 camps worth millions. Men's omen's groups cooperate in building and main- these camps, which are being increasingly used reats by the local parishes as well as for youth. are now winterized for this purpose with other s added which provide comfortable, relaxing ds for our busy youth.

Bible has led our Luther League theology. you may learn by us how to live according to re," as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, has pro-

amps sprang up spontaneously in the beginning, and e ELC owns 39 camps worth millions of dollars.

vided the theme of all Luther League organization. Assurance of forgiveness has been our number one concern for troubled youth in the teen-age storm and stress years. That we allow the living Christ to walk from Scripture into the hearts of youth through the forgiveness of sin is the continual prayer of all who work with youth.

The command of God has been seen as total by our youth only when they have known the glad assurance "that I might be His own." With these words alive in faith and warming the hearts of youth, discipleship has come as God's call to die to self and live to Christ. Joy is Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last, joy has been the fruit of the Spirit for every youth activity and commitment—as students, sons, and as heirs of God to all creation. *Dare, care, share* has been their three-pronged forward thrust.

The promises have had the accent in youth work. As one of our Leagues, where 20 Negroes had been won by 20 Norwegians, put it, "Every League meeting has repeated, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,' as we were reminded it was the Lord with all authority who is risen who says this to us. Then we were told to win others; you must share the Savior, not yourself, so we repeated together I John 1:9. Then we went out in the confidence of Philippians 4:13 and 19."

Begin one of these promises with any League group, and they will finish it for you. They literally live by every word out of the mouth of God, as they radiate the joy of Jesus by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Confronted by a world still knowing the occupying power of the prince of darkness, our Leaguers have been constantly reminded that they have not received the New Testament power of the Holy Spirit in baptism to cower behind the protective legalism of an old covenant life. "A mind to blend with outward life, while keeping at Thy side," has been the impact of their church upon them, as they have become leaders in school and community, under the guidance of God.

"Fullness" describes all that belongs to youth in Christ. Called by His Name, they are aware, "And of His fulness have we all received grace upon grace." In a theology for youth which unites them with all God's people through the local congregation, they know the parish as the place where the Holy Spirit is always taking beggars and making them kings. In the fellowship of redemption which is the life of the Church on earth, they realize in Luther's words what it means to be the *Lord's* and *Lords*.

Kings under the King of kings, Lords under the Lord of Lords, their life together in the League is one of venture unto the uttermost parts of the earth, until all the earth knows the Lord of their salvation.

A Look Ahead in Youth Work

by L. David Brown

No CRYSTAL BALL is provided the prognosticator seeking to view what lies ahead in church youth work. However, a panoramic, if superficial, view can be had if we plant our telescope into the future on the following tripod of factors:

The explosion in youth population
The findings of Lutheran Youth Research
The new opportunities in a new Church

Teen-age explosion

The teen-age population explosion is upon us. Most of the congregational youth groups in our Church will have a 50% increase in potential membership in the next five years. When you add to this the fact that about 75% of the adolescent youth in our country are not affiliated with the Church, we begin to get some idea of the tremendous task that faces us as a Church.

Thus far, we have thought about youth work in terms of *problems*. The expanding rate of juvenile irresponsibility and brutality, the not-too-promising profile of a "youth culture," and the bewilderment of modern, mechanized life have contributed to pointing with dread at our youth problem. The exploding population will make our present problem consciousness look like youth's play. Estimates are that delinquency will rise from 70% to 140% in the next five years.

Few congregations retain more than 50% of its youth's interest and loyalty after confirmation. Yet various studies indicate to us that what determines adult participation in the Church is not a good Christian home so much as the degree to which a person was involved in teen-age congregational activities. If we do not have at present enough resources to keep half of the number of our youth interested church, what will happen when the full inunda our youth population explosion hits the church

If we are the church, we believe that it is the that affords real answers to young people's pr It isn't more adequate education, finer recr facilities, or slum clearance. The churches must for this greater responsibility to our youth.

Our problem in the face of more youth to w must minister is not to continue throwing up ou in disgust at "this younger generation," but centrate the resources of the Gospel in a far r fective way. This means looking at more in youth with individual problems than looking youth problem." Every one of these young peo are flooding our confirmation classes are ind formed by a loving God.

If greater individualized care is needed, a are more individuals for which we must

Leadership Schools train League leaders in ways their fellow leaguers share God's Word.

olution must be to prepare by means of deploying Gospel-oriented persons in our youth program. astor is already harassed by the demands of a old ministry in our complex world. More Chris- y people must be marshalled for the effort!

y pastors are discovering that their ministry can ltiplied many times by recruiting and training ay adults to work with youth groups. These will not be available, however, unless a far awareness is manifest in most of our congrega- f the vastness of work involved in ministering to pidly expanding youth population.

Research findings and the future

heran Youth Research is an intersynodical study cted to determine the basic needs of our modern The study was conducted along the strictest fic procedures. The results are only now avail- he basic findings of which are to be included in issues of this magazine.

data indicate several directions that future youth should take. Some of the cliches about youth have fallen. For instance, the problems of youth in ural areas are not much different from those of in the cities. There is no noticeable difference be- youth in the midwest, and in the far west. The ize congregation that seems to be doing signifi- more effective work with its youth has a mem- p of from 500 to 1,000 souls. The reason for this to be the greater individualized attention these receive from the adults, and especially from the

most immediate path to which LYR points is rollment of more lay adults in the youth program. must be trained and recruited with great care.

ible Camp program will continue to play an important the new Church.

The basic consideration must be that they are honestly concerned about the individual problems of youth.

Thus, LYR indicates what the approaching youth population indicates: there is need for greater involvement of adults in the youth program.

Many other things could be said about the LYR study, but these must await the releases in this paper and further interpretation.

The American Lutheran Church and the future of youth work

Opportunities for more effective youth work in the new Church seem unlimited. For one thing, youth work will not only be channeled in an auxiliary, but will also be governed by an official board of the Church, and structured in the Division of Education.

This should mean that the auxiliary known as the Luther League will be youth-run and youth-led to a greater degree. At the same time there will be more ample opportunities to involve adult concern in the guidance of various youth activities. This also is a recognition of the need for greater adult participation in the youth program.

More staff would signify that more attention can be given to that which is called elsewhere in this issue the "crucial task of youth work," the importance and need of scripture. The new Church should also provide greater resources for accomplishing the "strategic task of youth work," namely, training adult workers more proficiently.

Cooperative endeavors with parish and higher education and with the other auxiliaries are presently being forged to heighten the effectiveness of future work with youth. This should multiply the resources available to congregations, and avoid compartmentalizing the approaches made in the congregation.

One basic focus

Our tripod constructed for a telescopic view of future youth work was made by erecting the poles of youth population, Lutheran Youth Research findings, and the new Church's youth structure. All of these caused us to focus on one thing—the need for greater lay adult involvement in congregational youth work. Unless we see a much more effective recruitment program, and a much greater concern among all adults in our congregations, a bleak outlook presents itself. Unless the adults who are really transformed by the Gospel offer this as their special Kingdom service, we will lose significant ground in reaching youth in the years ahead.

Adults Are the Answer

by Raymond Jo

ADULT RECRUITMENT! Adult training! Adults are the answer to our most strategic task in youth work.

This conclusion has not come from a Luther League office "staff meeting" but has been keenly expressed by the youth themselves throughout our church. This "call for help" must not be taken lightly, for a most vital part of our church family is at stake.

Our resources

The *pastor* has been and still remains the "chief" youth worker. But youth realize that the demands of the parish make him the "chief" in so many areas that he needs help with the youth program. The pastor cherishes the personal contact with youth, but time does not permit him to live with them in all their activities.

The *church council* cannot afford to overlook this "SOS" from the young people. If youth are a vital link in the congregation's program, then sufficient help must be given them to carry out their responsibilities. Youth are looking to you, Mr. Council Member, for guidance and direction.

Potential *youth sponsors* are to be found in any congregation. These are people who are willing to defend, support, encourage youth in their everyday experiences. History has borne out the fact that youth sponsors come to the surface only when the *need* for them is urgently stressed.

Men's and women's auxiliaries are vital resources of help for youth. Youth receive a real assurance of worth when the Brotherhood and Ladies' Aid accept the role of "father" and "mother" auxiliaries for the youth.

What is being done to train adults?

One of the efforts of the Youth Office has been to secure the services of an adult in each circuit of our church to serve as a circuit sponsor. This person in turn, invites all local league sponsors of a circuit to a "sponsorshop." At these meetings materials are discussed, ideas exchanged on methods to help youth, common problems are focused upon for a possible solution. It is amazing to see the excitement for adult training come to the fore through the effective work of circuit sponsors.

A sponsor manual is now available which s highlight the important tasks of a youth spon

Exchange program ideas for men's, wome youth auxiliaries have been sent to congregation attempt to stimulate closer relationships betwe organizations. These helps have been but a r ginning. However, the exciting response to them convinced us in the Youth Office that our ta raise up youth workers in our Church and t them with the helps needed to win the confi youth.

Congregations are utilizing adu manpower

The findings in the recent youth survey ca theran Youth Research reveal that a youth which has adult support experiences a most he titude of participation and accomplishment. discussions were held with key leaders of c tions who participated in the survey. Listed b some of the ideas mentioned by them in whi were used in local youth work.

(1) A youth committee was formed consist member from the church council, one board of education, an adult member at l youth. The purpose of this committee wa attention on the importance of youth w congregation.

(2) The pastor, intern, or parish worker wou ule regular evenings for training of adu sponsors.

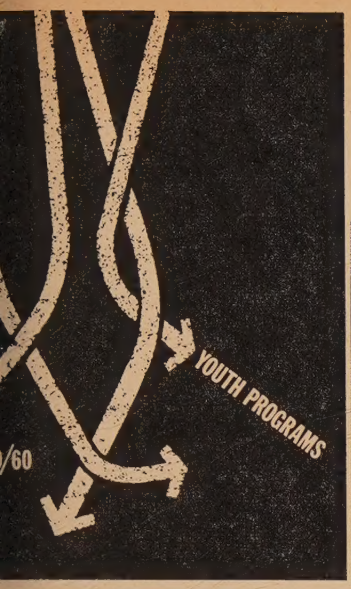
(3) Recruitment of youth sponsors was plac same level of importance as that of Sund teachers.

(4) Men's and women's auxiliaries would program for the youth once a year. You do the same for the men and women.

(5) The church council would present a p the youth outlining its tasks and sugges of responsibility for youth as members o gregation.

A great many more suggestions were made alone show the growing concern for adult pa in youth work.

Publications for Youth



CHURCH'S CONCERN for its youth beyond the limits of the League Office into the area of ions represented by *One* magazine *Youth Programs*. Put out ex- for the information, inspira- entertainment of youth in all their lives, these pieces are by the Christian Youth Publi- office under the direction of Youth Publications Council or, as it is affectionately called,). JYPC is composed of repre- s from the youth organizations Lutheran bodies — American, ical, United Evangelical, Au- , and Lutheran Free.

effort to provide literature for n youth which would direct inking and affect their lives in and Christ-centered way, the ELC, and UELC joined forces to offer *One* magazine to their people. They were joined later Augustana and Lutheran Free s. *Youth Programs* is geared Luther League as a group, while agazine is directed to the indi- youth (14 years and up) by nt each month to the Leaguer's a subscription basis. *One* sells for $2.50 a year, with lower rates for League groups.

In *One,* a variety of feature articles, short stories, sports items on Lutherans in the athletic world, quizzes, cartoons, and news articles featuring Christian youth and adults in world or national events constantly remind the youth that they have a definite responsibility to their Savior as witnesses to Him in everything they do. The name of *One* has come from a statement in Paul's letter to the Galatians, "You are all one in Christ Jesus." United through the magazine *One,* thousands of North American Christian youth have gained added awareness of their *one*-ness in Christ.

Regular contributors write on dating and social life, offer pastoral counseling, review books of interest to youth, discuss the entertainment world, and provide a daily devotion guide. Contests which develop the youth in their creativity in writing, art, or other forms of self-expression are sponsored by the magazine. Recent issues of *One* have carried a special emphasis on active Leagues in the Lutheran Church. Twenty-one Luther Leagues have been featured over the past two years, presenting through word and pictures their unique ways of spreading the message of Christ throughout their teenage world.

Youth Programs started as a quarterly in 1952, becoming an annual publication in 1957. It is sent by the national youth offices to every North American Luther League in the five churches. Luther Leagues of the United Lutheran Church, Suomi Synod, and the Walther League (Mo. Synod) have also joined in its use. Aimed at being a working book or idea source for Luther League programs, its variety of skits and drama, topics, quiz sessions, debates, role-playing, buzz sessions, and other methods of presentation make it a valuable guide to youthful Christian living. Topics include Bible study, doctrines, the meaning of the church year and seasons, social life and personal responsibility to God and the Church. Program guides are written by pastors and lay men and women from all participating synods. Extra copies of *Youth Programs* are available at the youth offices for $1.50 each.

At the present, the Christian Youth Publications office is located in the headquarters building of the ELC, 422 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis 15. Charles Lutz is the editor of both *One* magazine and *Youth Programs*. A graduate of Wartburg College and Capital Seminary (ALC), Chuck has been with *One* since 1953, and editor of both publications the past three years. Associate Editor James Kerr came from Vancouver, British Columbia, to join the staff in 1957. Serving as circulation manager and bookkeeper is Thelma Warneking, and her part-time assistant is Irene Flittie.

JYPC is fulfilling its purpose through the written word—to reach, teach and inspire Lutheran youth for greater service and commitment to the Incarnate Word, Christ Jesus.

Our Most Crucial Task

by W. Gordon Smee

If one were to ask what is the one most urgent, critical, and determinative factor in an effective church youth program, we would not hesitate to reply, "making the Word of God come alive in the youth fellowship." We view this as our most crucial task. Other things are important, to be sure, but they are important only to the degree to which they prepare for, contribute to, and build upon this primary goal of a youth program.

There are many reasons why we are convinced that this is true. First and foremost is the conviction that neither youth offices nor church boards can create or sustain a Christian youth fellowship. Only God's Spirit can do it as He works through the Gospel to call teen-agers into the fellowship with Himself. And only in this way can any youth fellowship be distinctly Christian or have any meaningful place in the spiritual fabric of a congregation.

Bible Study Is Central

This is not accomplished, however, by simply handing a group of teen-agers a Bible and telling them to get together with it once a week. An organizational structure is needed, one that is consonant with the scriptures' own teaching of the nature of Christian fellowship and that allows for the greatest opportunity for sharing the Word of God.

For that reason your Luther League seeks to assist local league officers to understand their offices not as positions of status but as positions of function, wherein they serve the group at its points of need, spiritually as well as organizationally.

The Luther League Leadership School program for the training of league leaders is also built around the philosophy that the most crucial task is to make the Word live. Bible study is central. Not only are the youth themselves immersed in the scriptures for the greatest part of each day's activity, but they are given training in ways by which they may help their fellow leaguers back home share God's Word in a significant and fruitful manner.

It is for this reason, too, that Christian stewardship and evangelism have been called by your youth "the walking legs" of the Luther League pr The activities of a fellowship centered in the W God will take the direction of God's concern men. The "YES" program (Youth Education in ardship) has sought to let the compulsion of Go and concern be experienced in youth's use of H The "YEA" emphasis in programming (Youth gelism Advance) has sought to let the same com of God's love and concern be manifest in their to Christ as they share the Word with others.

In the same way conventions, so important to psychological needs of youth, have been built the Bible in an attempt to let at least a portion ture come alive in these emotionally charged sit Themes are chosen to proclaim some basic tr to lead to a fruitful and creative communica the Word. Group experiences in Bible study a district, and international rallies have provi channel for God's Spirit to reach the hearts an of thousands of youth with new insights, re power, and life commitment to Christ.

They Want Help

The forthcoming reports on Lutheran Yo search will show how valid has been our convic our most critical job in serving the youth of ou is to make the Word live. For when they th identify the areas where they want help most church, "help in personal Bible study" and understanding ind interpreting the Bible" r near the top.

This is no easy task, though it is an ur We are too prone to sin against God by letti turn the excitement of God's disclosure of into boredom and substituting secondary prog for the primary one. To make the Word live i it relevant in the youth fellowship situation the Word with devotion is to anticipate v Himself achieves in our midst through the grace. This is our most crucial task!

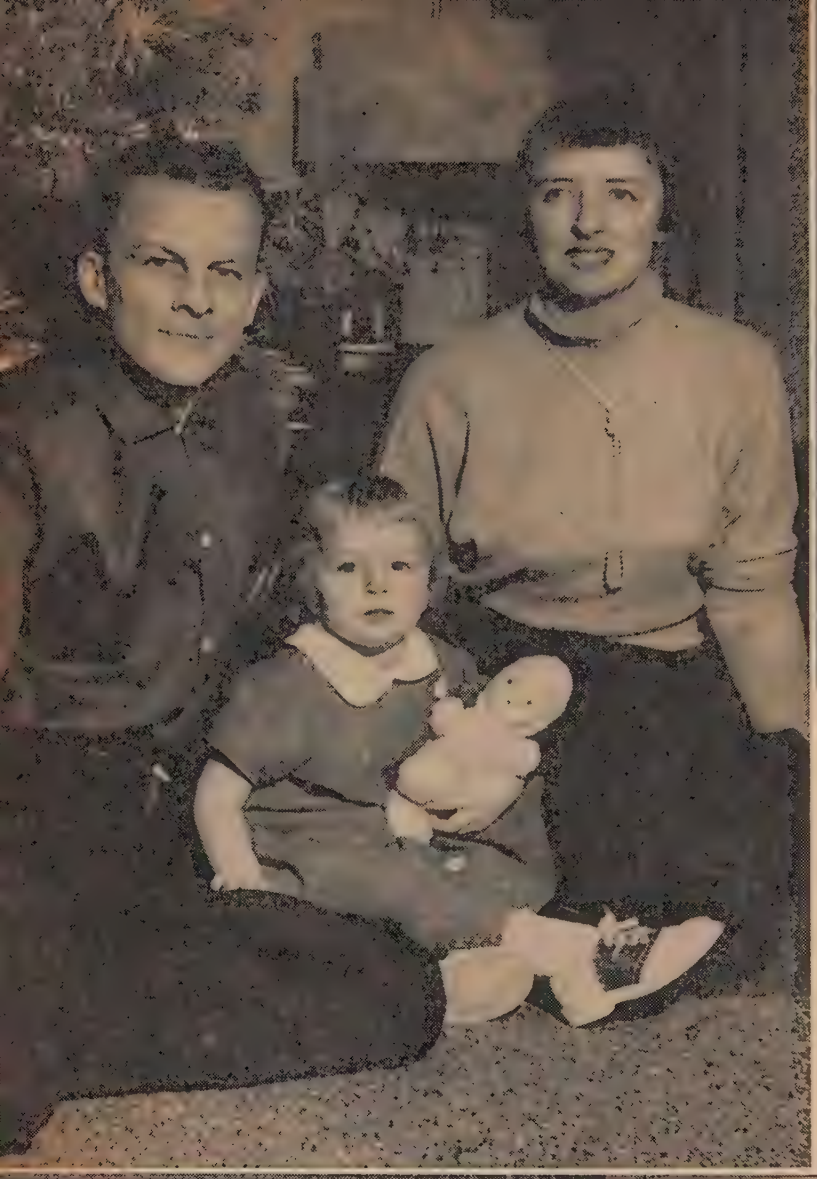
aguer visits an Indian family.

What Do Leaguers Do?

k 'N ROLL, pizza, hot rods, and football are not the terests of today's Lutheran teenagers.
act, as the pictures on this and the following pages strate, Lutheran youth take their Church and its m very seriously.
he program of the youth group in each local con- on of The Evangelical Lutheran Church there are major "thrusts"—Bible study, Evangelism and dship.
starting point and the basis of any worthwhile program is study of the Word of God. This is lly true among young people. The methods vary church to church and from year to year. In some study is formal with a counselor or the pastor g the youth. A more typical Bible study is one y the youth themselves. In many groups some ick" is used to get participation by everyone in oup. Whatever the method, it is in the Scriptures that youth find the inspiration for everything else that is done.

Today's youth have no lack of energy and enthusiasm, as any parent can testify. This boundless energy also spills over naturally into a program of evangelism in the Luther League. When a teen-ager is sold on anything, he wastes no time telling his friends. Thus Christian youth are eager to draw their companions into their fellowship.

Today's youth are also used to handling their own money. They start early to dispense allowances, and thousands of teenagers hold part time jobs. Because they have money to spend, they are "stewards" who want to know God's plan for investing their time, talents and money. Through specialized programs young people are learning to carry their share of the load and support their own program, as well as to expend themselves in service projects for the local congregation and the church throughout the world.

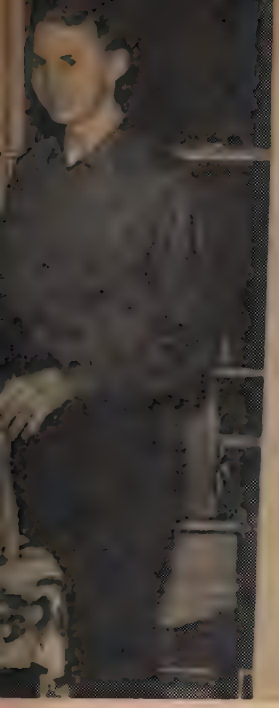


Clockwise, starting upper left:

Adult sponsors play an important par successful youth program.

Distributing Christmas gifts to needy sters is one of many youth service proje

Bringing the joy of the Gospel in wor music to shut-ins is another way of serv



ave a part in building a

g pong follows many a

er their services to help

Rhythm of Blessedness

A Shanty of Four Planks

We have been living for the past weeks in a house undergoing renovation. The experience has been touched with melancholy. I am not now thinking of plaster dust which, like sin, doth so easily beset us. Nor am I thinking of icy drafts, curtainless windows, messy clothes, endless losses and misplacements, and a disorder so vast that one is finally reduced to tears or howling laughter. Precious heirlooms turn up in ash cans and rubbish graces Aunt Susan's priceless milk glass candy dish. Pay checks, Christmas cards, and utility bills end up under the davenport which just now stands loaded with upended dining room chairs and covered with shroud.

The melancholy has deeper springs. It flows from the recognition that all of us live in a house in need of repairs. The foundation crumbles, window sash decays, floors and ceilings sag. We drive ineffectual nails into decaying timbers; we putty, paint, conceal. But underneath is the eschatological shudder. Underneath is the final rot. As my father used to say laconically, when, as children, we sometimes yearned for more elegance, "Our only sure habitation is a shanty of four planks and a winding sheet." Paul says it more gently, "If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed." *If,* indeed!

The Death of Ivan Ilyitch

I think my most terrifying literary experience was the reading one clear, warm summer day of Tolstoy's long short story "The Death of Ivan Ilyitch." When I was younger I used to feel that the accolade for terror went to Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher." In college I would have given it to Henry James' "A Turn of the Screw," a story so hair-raisingly horrible that I still feel its cold breath on my neck. But nothing comes near Tolstoy. It is not the story of ghosts, castles at midnight, or coffined corpses. It is simply the story of a man who, at the very pinnacle of success, discovers that he is dying.

Now the point of the story is not to narrate, however skilfully, the sickness and death of a man named Ivan Ilyitch. It is to hold the mirror up to nature and to underscore for all of us, young and old, healthy and sick, the one inescapable and unalterable fact—we are dying. We are not merely going to die *some day;* we are dying now. As the Apostle says, "our outer nature is wasting away." And the horror of Tolstoy's story lies in the curious but universal fact that of all the people who crowd only two—the dying man and his faithful serv permit themselves to believe that they are bound. The rest delude themselves cruelly wi surance that while Ivan is dying, they are mo alive.

God's Time Is the Best

It seems to me that here also we Christia our profession, differ little from those "wh hope." We find the discussion of death morbi away from the subject as if it were merely u and we unload on the professional funeral d only the care of the body of the deceased but culture of death.

Actually for the Christian death is awesom and grave, but it is also assuring, comfortin strange sense joyous. A couple of Bach titles telling me this during the past week. One is "God's Time Is the Best." It deals with de grave and joyous manner which is authentic tian. The other is "Alle Menschen musse About it Albert Schweitzer writes, "This is governed by Bach's rhythm of blessedne sounds one cannot discern any lament that al towards death. Bach describes joyful hope fo ence the faithful will have after death."

What the good man Bach is saying, perha tears, is what the Apostle had written to friends in Corinth centuries before, "So we heart." The important word here is *so.* It not only supportable but blessed.

For the Family Altar

J. R. Hestenes

the Fifth Sunday After Epiphany — *Training in Godliness*

The Epistle: I Corinthians 1:10-18 • The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-35

Monday, February 1

APPRAISAL

I Timothy 4:8

ess is of value in every way, as promise for the present life and the life to come.

hy most certainly agreed with this appraisal of godliness. He blind to its high value. He knew had in terms of joy, peace, and n. In fact, he had grown up setting and now had dedicated o the ministry. For any person ows godliness it would take a l of talk to beat down the insis- h that its possession is a most thing. It is a pattern of life es true sense out of living and the direction of Home.

this I want to keep secure, dear rom the ravaging hands of life's e interests. Clearly I see how the of discipleship outweighs in value r life-dedication anyone can make. ame of Jesus, Amen.

+

Tuesday, February 2

AWARENESS

Matthew 7:14

"For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

When a person is involved in discipleship he must be keenly aware of the fact that it is not a general matter in which he dabbles; it is a specific profession to which he is called. The "way" upon which he travels is bounded on either side, and it is "uphill" all the way. It does not follow the current of life; it goes upstream. This agrees with the Apostolic injunction that we should work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and with the call of Jesus to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him.

Give unto me the good grace to appreciate the privilege of my high calling to be Your disciple, dear Jesus, and the sense of awareness that it is something I must work at in order to keep it. In Your Name I pray. Amen.

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Wednesday, February 3

DISCIPLINE

I Timothy 4:7

Train youself in godliness.

There is no question but that Timothy accepted this advice from Paul, since he was fully aware of the value of godliness and knew that the idea, "once you have it, it's yours for good," definitely does not apply. This is not a pointless suggestion. Every person engaged in the Christian endeavor knows that its conduct is not as simple as "'falling off a log." To become a follower of Christ and to stay a follower are two different things. Starting may be comparatively easy; continuing can be difficult. Discipline may be an unpopular word, but it is a part of the art of godliness.

It is not for lesser goals I am striving, O Lord, but it is for the highest and best. It is not for some little event, soon forgotten, that I am channeling my interests, but for the one great event to which You have called me, sonship with You. Amen.

+

Thursday, February 4

EGGS AND BASKETS

Philippians 3:13

ren, I do not consider that I have my own; but one thing I do.

was saying that whatever con- he had to the cause of the Lord d not "just happen" to him. It the result of concentration. A his training in godliness consisted g it definitely in mind. He aimed eousness, godliness, faith, love. It ot of some people to divide their so thinly that all their interests ncluding the life of active faith. d to put fewer eggs in smaller er baskets. This is a real part of ning in godliness.

I make my choices, when I what I will devote myself to, let oice remind me, gracious Jesus, must not waste my time and with matters that will do harm fective discipleship. In Your Name Amen.

Friday, February 5

HELPFUL WORSHIP

I Timothy 2:8

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands. . . .

Worship is an important part of training in godliness. Effective worship can do much to promote the growth in godliness. It is a high art that can leave its luster on our dulled souls. Worship is not an easy art, nor is there any reason why it should be. It is demanding. It is devotional; it asks us to "be still." It is directional; the worshipper gives and receives according to his participation. It is terminal; the worshipper must be better for it, and he is if he has truly come into the presence of God.

How much better I can stand up on my own feet when I have bowed at Your feet, O God! Even as the desciples asked that they be taught how to pray, I would ask that I be taught the art of true worship, that my spiritual growth may be enhanced. Amen.

Saturday, February 6

BASICS

Matthew 6:6

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father . . ."

Prayer life is the foundation of any growth in righteousness, any progress in the life in Christ. If there is a good prayer life it means the inner discipleship is in good control. Religious life is always dependent upon the condition of the inner man. When we are alone with God in prayer we commune with the source of our life and faith. Without this communion we are stifled and our stature becomes dwarfed. Prayer is fraught with great possibilities. These await discovery by those who seek God in private prayer.

Always, dear God, let me build on the foundation of prayer, for my source of power, my constant upbuilding. For others also I would pray, thus extending the borders of my care and compassion until at last I rest in You. Amen.

49 Million in Church Every Week

An estimated 49 million adults attended church and synagogue services during a typical week of 1959—or 47 per cent of the adult civilian population, according to a Gallup Poll survey.

The Gallup report, issued by the American Institute of Public Opinion, noted that, by way of comparison, during an average week in 1958, 49 per cent of the population—or an estimated 50,500,000 adults attended church. The 1958 total is the highest number on record.

The Gallup survey attempted to measure only the average number of adults attending worship during sample weeks in the months of March, July and December, 1959. A special survey of attendance during Easter Week of 1959 found that 61,200,000 adults went to church or synagogue. This was 59 per cent of the adult population.

Medical Missionaries Meet

Some 770 doctors, medical students, missionaries, and nurses from 39 states, four Canadian provinces, and 25 other countries attended the first International Convention on Missionary Medicine in Chicago.

Sponsored by the Christian Medical Society, the meeting's theme was "The Man God Uses." Dr. P. Kenneth Gieser of Wheaton, Ill., an eye specialist and former medical missionary to China, presided. He is the society's president.

Addressing a workshop, Dr. Robert G. Cochrane of London, president of the Christian Medical Fellowship of Great Britain, declared that medical missionaries should be as concerned with the souls of their patients as with their bodies.

"It cannot be stressed too strongly that any activity which neglects the soul-restoring power of Jesus Christ or hinders the growth of an indigenous church must be avoided," he said.

Dr. Cochrane, who is technical advisor to the American Leprosy Mission, questioned if medical missionaries can hope to meet the medical needs of the "teeming millions in India or the scattered villages in Africa."

"All we can do is show how such a need can be met," he emphasized.

Dr. Ralph Blocksma, a plastic surgeon from Grand Rapids, Mich., and former medical missionary to Pakistan, observed in an interview that many American medical men and women are giving their time, talent and money to the Christian cause around the world.

Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Blocksma said that a growing number of Christian doctors "have been doing a lot of traveling, helping people around the world," under the society's auspices.

"They go out for a month or two," he explained, "lecturing, working in mission hospitals, performing operations, then return to pick up practice before it falls to pieces.

Dr. Blocksma, who has made periodical visits to Panama, Ec Bangkok and Hong Kong, ca idea "time tithing for Christ."

"We ought to tithe not only but a tenth of the year for Chr added.

Soviets, Pope to Visit?

An apparent "new attitude Soviet government toward Catholicism" may pave the v a visit by Soviet President K Voroshilov to Pope John XXII can sources said.

They stated also that if Mr. lov, who is expected to be in Italy in March, were accor by Soviet Premier Nikita S. chev, "the Pope would hardl an audience to one and deny the other."

The comment by the Vatican was prompted by what the "a wonderfully encouraging seen in a Moscow Radio an ment that Christmas Day servi

—RNS

BRITISH CLERGY TRAIN FOR TV—One of the first pupils at a Church vision Training center opened in South London recently is the Rev. M George, learning what it is like to face a TV camera. The center was lished by film and TV magnate Lord Rank.

Catholic churches throughout
with Masses well attended.
said this was "the first time,
as we can remember, that the
station referred to the huge
which attended the services
Russian churches."
eover," they added, "the sta-
eferences to the importance of
nas to the Western world
seem to indicate that the Soviet
nent, in its efforts toward under-
g with the West, finally has
stood the strength of the
."

e Support Dibelius

bers of the Evangelical Church
lin-Brandenburg said they will
any attempts to "silence or dis-
er" Bishop Otto Dibelius of
chairman of the Council of
angelical Church in Germany
)), whose strongly anti-Com-
statements have frequently
d the ire of East Berlin officials.
Church's West Berlin members
d to "censorship" plans by the
d "Weissensee group," which
s churchmen from the Soviet
These clergymen try to have
and conversation with their
t overlords and their atheistic
ors in order to "open fruitful
s for the Gospel."
group is reported planning to
e at its next Synod meeting that
Dibelius be ordered to refrain
making public utterances on
l matters unless he gets the
management's consent.
t Berlin members said that be-
in Berlin and the Soviet Zone
neither understand nor approve
estrictions on the bishop's office.
om of announcing the Gospel,"
aid, "is an inalienable principle
we are determined to uphold
nd in the future."
German Communists, mean-
hailed the Weissensee proposal
appreciable effort to prevent
s from continuing his clerical
ar."
called the opposition from
Berlin a "clerical militarist
ver to allow Dibelius to poison
urch-State atmosphere."

Washington News Notes

Before Congress, Communion—The same day that Congress opened, many government officials, headed by President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon, gathered at the National Presbyterian Church for an early morning service of intercession and Holy Communion. The President's pastor, Dr. Edward Elson, conducted the service and offered prayers for God's guidance for the President and his cabinet, for Congress, and for the nation as a whole. The service was sponsored by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, in cooperation with the local Council of Churches.

Nearly 800 people attended the 45-minute service. Among the "ruling elders" of the church who assisted in serving the communion were a Senator, five Representatives, and two government administrative officials.

Senator for Six Months—The newest among the one hundred Senators is Norman Brunsdale of North Dakota. Sworn in by Vice President Nixon on Jan. 6, his term in office will be one of the shortest on record. He will occupy the place left vacant by the late Senator William Langer until June 28, 1960, when a special election will be held to choose Langer's successor for the remainder of his term, which ends in 1965. Brunsdale says he will not be a candidate in that election.

The short-term junior Senator from North Dakota was governor of his state from 1951 to 1957. An active Lutheran, he was a lay member of the Church Council of The Evangelical Lutheran Church prior to his election as governor. His home congregation is the Mayville (N. D.) Lutheran Church.

Cold Water from Walter—Church leaders who hoped that Congress would squeeze into its crowded agenda some legislation for admission of refugees, as a token of whole-hearted U.S. participation in World Refugee Year, were discouraged recently. Congressman Francis E. Walter, head of the House Immigration Subcommittee, threw cold water on legislative prospects.

Just back from a seven weeks' trip to Europe, Africa, and South America, the Lutheran legislator, who is known as "Mr. Immigration," said that Europe no longer has a serious refugee problem, with "only 28,000" who want to be resettled elsewhere. He predicted that Europe's surplus population problem will soon cease to be acute.

Mr. Walter did note that serious situations still exist in Palestine and Hong Kong, where large concentrations of refugees live in conditions of misery. A bill which he introduced last year, permitting refugees to enter the U.S. as parolees under emergency conditions, may pass this year if Mr. Walter puts the full strength of his prestige behind it.

By Robert van Deusen and Charles de Vries

More Hell in Pulpits, Less Hell in Streets

Too many churches in this country "are more like undertaking establishments in that they bury more folks than they baptize" a Southern Baptist minister told the Evangelistic Association of New England at its 72nd annual meeting in Boston.

"If more hell were preached in our pulpits across the land, there would be less hell on our streets and behind the doors of our homes," asserted Dr. Robert G. Lee of Memphis, Tenn.

A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Lee declared that "too many churches have become drifting sepulchres manned by frozen crews because they have refused to preach the eternal riches of God's salvation."

He charged that churches have "raised a whole generation of illiterates in the U.S. in the realities of Christianity," and that in homes the "cocktail hour has been substituted for the family worship hour."

Urban Church Expert to Lecture

The Rev. Walter Kloetzli of Chicago, secretary of Urban Church Planning for the National Lutheran Council, will deliver the 1961 Knubel-Miller Lectures of the United Lutheran Church in America.

In announcing his selection, Dr. Robert Mortvedt, executive secretary of the denomination's Board of Higher Education, said the topic for the lecture series will be "The Church and the Changing Community."

Mr. Koetzli, an expert on urban church problems, will speak in Philadelphia; Minneapolis, Minn.; Kansas City, Mo.; or Denver, Colo., and in a still-to-be-selected city on the West Coast.

The lectures are named in honor of the late Dr. Frederick H. Knubel, first president of the ULCA: and the late Dr. E. Clarence Miller, the denomination's first treasurer.

Predict Record Contributions in 1960

Record church budgets and contributions in 1960 were forecast at the 10th annual All-Lutheran Stewardship Conference in St. Louis, Mo.

Attending the meeting were 40 stewardship specialists and officers of Lutheran bodies.

They cited as reasons for the continuing upward trend the rising national income, increasing numbers of contributors as a result of climbing church membership rolls, and higher per capita givings as intensive denominational stewardship education programs bear fruit.

Stewardship, as defined by one conference leader, means "using everything, everybody, everywhere, under God, to extend His kingdom." This embraces "time, talent and treasure," he said.

Chairman of the group was Dr. George S. Schultz, Jr., of Columbus, O., stewardship and finance director of the American Lutheran Church. Other bodies represented included the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Lutheran Church in America, and the Lutheran Free Church.

Most stewardship specialists now recommend three every-member canvasses instead of the traditional one each year for local churches, said one speaker. Another emphasized that a stewardship program must be based on long-range planning at the synodical level.

LWF to Share Africa Radio Time

An agreement was signed here between the Lutheran World Federation and the Near East Christian Council to share in broadcasting time of the LWF's projected radio station in Ethiopia.

Dr. Sigurd Aske, associate director of the LWF Department of World Mission and acting director of the radio project, said the agreement was made "in order that the station may more adequately fulfill its Christian purpose."

The department is proceeding with plans to establish a 50,000-watt transmitter in Ethiopia to beam religious and cultural programs to broad areas of Africa and Asia. The Addis Abbaba government has already approved the federation's application for a franchise.

Capital cost of the project is estimated at $400,000. Target date for the station to go on the air is Christmas Day, 1961.

Signing the agreement for the federation were Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary; Dr. Arne Sovik, director of the group's World Mission department; and Dr. Aske.

Signing for the Near East Christian Council were executive secretary Dr. Harry G. Dorman of Beirut, Lebanon, and the Rev. Edwin M. Luidens of New York, executive secretary, Radio, Visual Education and Mass Communication Committee (RAVEMCCO) of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.

Fry Warns Youth of Escape Religion

A prominent Lutheran lead
nearly 4,500 teen-agers attendi
18th international Augustana
League conference in San A
Tex., that "a religion that tal
of Heaven and forgets this ear
not frighten Communists."

"It is because Christianity th
to upset a godless order of th
this world," said Dr. Franklin
Fry of New York, "that the c
in Eastern Europe and China
under restraint."

"True Christianity is never
to be an escape into a dream
he said. "Even if Americans
understand that fact, it is im
that Communist nations do."

A Lutheran survey reported
conference showed that mo
half of American teen-agers f
parents don't trust them. Dr.
Mills Duvall of Chicago, a you
selor, said 53 per cent of th
people polled also said, "My
won't let me make my own de
Miss Duvall is author of "
Life and Love for Teen-Age

Other speakers included Dr
H. Lundeen and Dr. Wilton
strand, both of Minneapolis,
tana Church president an
director, respectively.

In his keynote address, L
deen declared that "every yo
son must make three importan
—a master, a life's work an
companion." The first is "
tant," he said.

"Everyone through life is
some master," he observed. "
master is will affect favorab
favorably the other two choi

Dr. Bergstrand said that i
the four-way denominationa
progress the Augustana you
ence planned for San Fra
1963 probably would not
making the San Antonio
the Augustana League's fina

Augustana Church leade
with Dr. Fry, gave the you
ence a blueprint of the propo
er structure. They said th
League will be the new
official youth auxiliary.

; Me in Miami, Mayme"
Luther League to Florida in 1961

ıi Beach is the site of the 1961 International Luther League convention ALC. The Interim Board of the Luther League announced this week is would be a mass-type, trial convention as distinguished from the lelegate convention to be held in Milwaukee, August 16-21, of this year.

›risingly enough, economy was ›ortant factor in this choice," Ar. Robert Vogel, board chair- 'A package plan was worked which we are able to lodge and delegate for $6.50 per day. The st on other items while in the ade Miami Beach competitive very other city we examined, hen you include transportation added Mr. Vogel.

Florida site has a new civic ium, and hotels which can the expected 15,000 registrants a five-block radius of the meet- ice.

unusual facilities at Miami will allow for a maximum of lown of the convention into study groups. The entire con- ı area is separated from the own district, a factor in the con- such a large number of dele- Ample opportunities for relaxa- re afforded by the beach area, is within three blocks of the that are envisioned for use.

mi is approximately 1500 miles the geographical center of the nurch. This is a shorter distance ne average of the last six youth tions of the three uniting

Board of Youth Activities, the counterpart of the Luther e Board of the new Church, was ted in this decision and concur- animously in the choice.

Milwaukee convention of this t which an attendance of 2500 ected, will officially constitute ague. Each of the auxiliaries of w Church will be holding open e conventions in successive years onstituting this year. The first e is the Florida youth gathering.

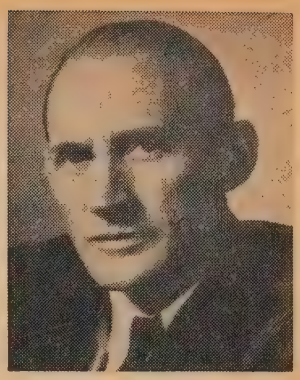
Radio Ministry Expands

"Lutheran Vespers," the Sunday half-hour broadcast sponsored by the ELC's division of evangelism, recently announced two forward steps in the development of this radio ministry.

A full-time executive director, Mr. Hugo Carlson, has been appointed for the broadcast, and a proposed "Chapel in the Hills," to be erected in the Black Hills of South Dakota, was announced.

Mr. Carlson was head of the department of speech at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. for 18 years. Later he joined the Central States Broadcasting System of Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, as chief newscaster. Later he joined the ABC network and held positions as newscaster in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Returning to South Dakota after six years on the West coast, Mr. Carlson rejoined the faculty of Augustana College. Later he was appointed director of natural resources for the state of South Dakota by the governor. In 1956 he was named vice president in charge of development for Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., the position he left to join "Lutheran Vespers."



Hugo Carlson

The program, which features the Rev. Harry Gregerson as a regular speaker, was started in November, 1947, with one radio station. It is now carried by 91 stations in 31 states.

The proposed "Chapel in the Hills" will be a permanent home for the worship service broadcast and also will serve as a tourist attraction in the Black Hills. A plateau site for the chapel has been purchased and architectural plans approved. Construction will begin when funds are available.

With the exception of the salary of the Lutheran Vespers' pastor, the radio mission is supported by gifts, memorials, and bequests.

Design for Chapel in the Hills by Maul and Pulver, Covina, Calif.

Commission Jewish Worker

While swastikas were being painted on synagogues and churches in New York this month, Holy Cross Church, of Commack, L.I., commissioned a young member of its congregation for evangelistic work among the Jewish people.

Mr. Jerome Azen, a former Jew who has been a member of the young Home Mission congregation and also taught its adult Bible class, has been called by the National Lutheran Council for evangelism work under the direction of the Rev. L. W. Halvorson, director of Inter-Cultural Outreach for the Council.

Commissioning services were held at Holy Cross Church on Sunday, January 24. The Rev. T. B. Boe is pastor of the 2½-year-old congregation.

ELC Woman Named to NCCA Staff

A leader of women's work in The Evangelical Lutheran Church has been named to a prominent staff position in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Miss Arlette R. Pederson, appointed as assistant executive director of the National Council's Department of Social Welfare, is national president of the ELC's Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation.

In her new post, Miss Pederson will share in the administrative responsibilities of the department, which coordinates and aids the health and welfare work of major cooperating denominations.

Miss Pederson has served as a psychiatric social worker in the Mental Hygiene Clinic of the West Side Veteran's Administration in Chicago and as research assistant in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, where she received her M.A. in Social Work, specializing in psychiatric social work.

Miss Pederson also served as a social case worker with the Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare in Chicago and with the Lutheran Welfare Society of South Dakota, working with adoptions, foster home care, and children in institutions.

She has been a student counsellor at South Dakota State College and at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, S. D., from which she received her B.A. degree.

Eight ELC Youth to Attend Exchange

Eight young people have been selected by the Young People's Luther League of the ELC to attend the 1960 Lutheran World Federation Youth Exchange in Lausanne during the months of June and July.

They are Karen Andersen, ,
tana College; Paul Hjelle,
Theological Seminary; Georgin
Pacific Lutheran College; Vern
ter, St. Olaf College; Twilla F
Concordia College; Kay Ska
Concordia College; James Olso
lic School Teacher, Sioux Falls
Eugene Larsen, Minneapolis
tional School.

From June 13 to July 27, t
ELC youth will travel thro
northern countries and Germa
ing parishes and homes of the
youth in an effort to get
understanding of their relatio
one another.

After two weeks of such
this group, along with 42 othe
ican Lutheran youth, will sp
next three weeks in meetings
ferences under the auspices
LWF

Augustana Choir Tours

The 65-voice Augustana a
choir, Sioux Falls, So. Dak., u
direction of Dr. Arnold J. Ru
on its 39th annual tour. Inc
the tour itinerary are Minnes
consin, Indiana, Illinois, Id
South Dakota. The choir i
a total of 24 concerts, begin
uary 9 at Dawson, Minn., wi
home concert on February 21
ington High School, Sioux

CHURCH REDEDICATED—Zion Church, Balaton, Minn. shown above, was recently rededicated after an extensive remodeling and refurnishing program. The Rev. Bennert O. Solberg is pastor of the parish.

Churches

Oconomowoc, Wisconsin—
Church of Stone Bank, se
from here, dedicated a new
on Jan. 17. The new home fo
tor is built on a four and
acre tract of land purchas
future building site by this
old congregation. The Rev.
Swantz has been pastor of t
since June 1959.

Viroqua, Wis.—Immanuel
tion here, which has been
four-point parish, voted r
withdraw from the other con
and call its own pastor.
Peder Nordsletten, who has
parish for the past 14 years
tinue to serve the three rura
—Zion, Franklin, and W
Hauge congregations.

e, N. Dak.—Pingree congre- ere dedicated its new church nber. Cost of the new structure ,000. Dr. Loyal E. Tallakson, of the N. Dak. District, con- ledicatory rites. Others taking the service included former the Rev. J. C. Wisnaes, the in C. Mehl, the Rev. Hans and the Rev. R. H. Schlink- Rev. Marvin J. Holje is the pastor of the church.

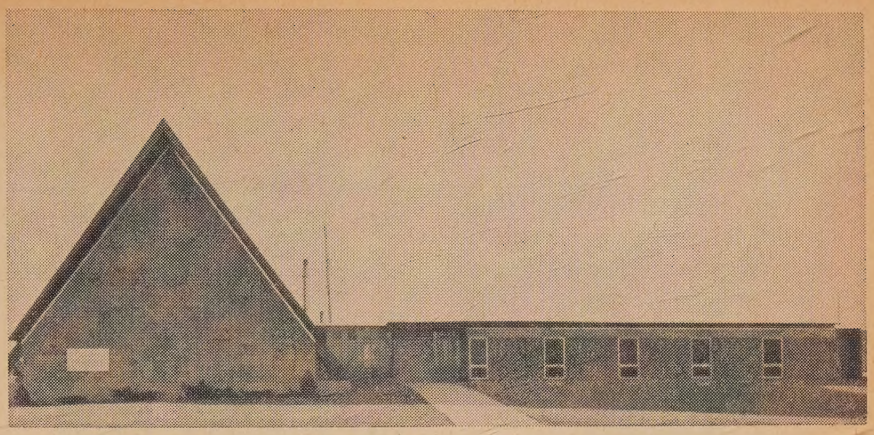
ger, N. Dak.—A new Bald- an was dedicated at Richland recently on the occasion of llation of the Rev. Raymond holtzen, Jr., as pastor of the gregations in the Bucyrus par- organ was a gift to the con- n from Mr. and Mrs. Erwin s.

e, Wash.—Bethel Church of e dedicated its new church y on Dec. 20. Dr. H. L. Foss, t of the Pacific District, of- assisted by ELC and ALC of the Seattle area. The first Bethel Church was built in he new second unit includes n with a seating capacity of 550 ower floor auditorium and fel- room and kitchen. Cost of the it was $200,000. Present mem- of this congregation served by l O. Pederson is 1,400.

-Obituaries

Rev. M. S. Gjerde, Pelican Minn., died Jan. 1. He had poor health for several years. born Feb. 24, 1878, in Norway, me to this country in 1896. s graduated from Concordia and the United Church Semin- l was ordained in 1906. He s pastor at St. Hilaire, Halma, ican Rapids, Minn. He retired . In 1909 he was married to monson. He is survived by his d four children, including Hil- rde, a missionary of the Santal in India, and the Rev. L. S. Funeral services were held Jan. ican Rapids.

Rev. Alfred Bredesen died in e, Wis., Jan. 3. He was born , 1883, in Stoughton, Wis., and l Luther College and Luther ical Seminary. Following his ordination in 1908 he served parishes at Huron, S. Dak., Leeds, N. Dak., Morris and Bricelyn, Minn., and rural Decorah, Iowa. After his retirement he lived for several years in Venice, Fla., where he conducted a mission for Negroes. He was married to Dagny Knutson in 1913. He is survived by his wife and two sons. Funeral services were held Jan. 6 at Glenwood Lutheran Church, Decorah.



NEW MONTANA PARISH UNIT—The new parish education unit, shown above, was dedicated in November by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Billings, Mont. Dr. R. A. Daehlin, president of the Rocky Mountain district, conducted dedicatory rites. Included in the new structure are two large assembly rooms, and eight smaller classrooms for primary children. The congregation was organized in 1956 and the first unit church built in 1957. The Rev. O. J. Bilstad is pastor of this young congregation.

Mrs. Mina Lovaas Floren, 68, wife of the Rev. Lars J. Floren, died Jan. 3 in Seattle, Wash., after a long illness. She was born in Astoria, S. Dak., and was married in 1917. With her husband she lived in Springfield and Shelly, Minn., and Tacoma, Poulsbo, and Seattle, Wash. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, two sisters, and two brothers. Funeral services were held Jan. 7 at Phinney Ridge Church, Seattle.

Mrs. Amelia Hanson Severtson, wife of the Rev. S. T. Severtson, died Dec. 12 at Winona, Minn. She was born March 31, 1890, in Lisbon, Ill., and attended school there at Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill. After her marriage in 1922, she lived at Blue Earth and Lanesboro, Minn., and after her husband's retirement, near Winona. She had been in poor health for many years. Funeral services were held at North Prairie Church, Lanesboro, with interment at Lisbon.

Mrs. Anne Neste Nelson, widow of the Rev. O. N. Nelson, died Dec. 31

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at Deaconess Hospital, Havre, Mont. She was born near Decorah, Iowa, April 9, 1877, and grew up at Manvel, N. Dak. After her marriage in 1903, she lived in Mekinock, N. Dak.; Chicago and Gardner, Ill.; and Twin Valley, Duluth, and Menahga, Minn. Since her husband's death she had lived in Big Sandy, Mont. Funeral services were held there on Jan. 2. with interment at Pennock, Minn.

Brent Nathan Melby, 3½-month-old infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Melby of Clarissa, Minn., died Jan. 5 of pneumonia.

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Arthur W. Johnson, Norwegian dren's Home, 6000 N. Canfield Av 31, Ill., 1-2-60

Simon K. Knutson, 2417 N. Phoenix, Ariz., 12-28-59

Rodney A. Kvamme, 4134th Stra SAC, Mather AFB, California, 1-1

Philip G. Westby, 822 Cedar, Minn., 1-1-60

Peter N. Tengesdal, 6521-20th Seattle 7, Wash., 1-15-60

Roland D. Thompson, 17 E. P Leonard Wood, Missouri, 12-15-5

Richard J. S. Vordale, 705-17th Milwaukee, Wis., 1-15-60

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Announcement

Preaching Missions—Fe

A. H. Mjorud:

7-11 Kasso Rev.

14-18 Oakland Rev.

21-25 Tracy Rev. R.

Allen V. Lee:

7-11 Milltow Rev.

21-25 Omah Rev. J.

28-March 3 Fremo Rev. R

H. O. Egertson:

3-9 Calgary, Alb Rev.

10-16 Ponoka, Alb Rev.

18-23 Edmonton, Alb Rev. L

25-28 Ryley, Alb Rev. M

Carl Opsahl:

7-11 H Rev. J.

14-18 Rev. S

21-25 Rev.

28-March 3 Fort Rev. B

P-T-R Missions

7-11 Bis
Evangelism Staff Participating: Nielsen

14-18 H
Evangelism Staff Participating Engebretson

21-25 Luverne-V
Evangelism Staff Participating Engebretson, Dr. Conrad Tho

21-25 Oklah
Evangelism Staff Participating: Nielsen

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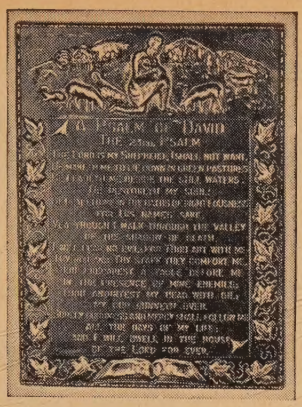

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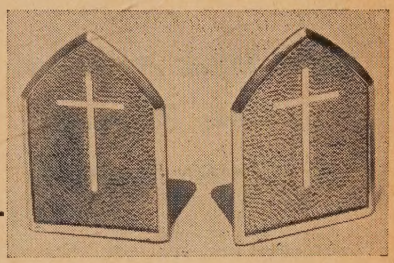

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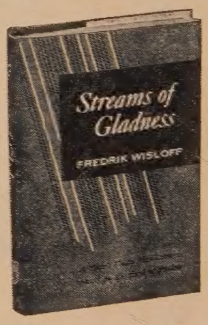

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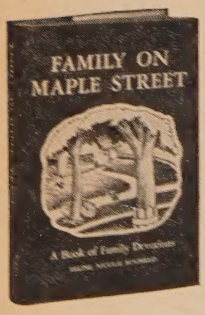

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